

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 120877

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN:GMR

APPROVED BY: ARA:HARYAN

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P 231556Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 120877

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT USDEL SECRETARY 23 MAY.

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 120671 TOSEC 010257

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OASGA

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOR SECRETARY FROM RYAN

BILL ROGERS GAVE AN UP-BEAT BRIEFING TO THE PRESS MAY 21 ON THE RESULTS OF THE OASGA. HE REFERRED TO LIEVANO'S COMMENT TO YOU THAT WITHOUT QUALIFICATION THE MEETING WAS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN THE HISTORY OF THE OAS. BILL UNDERLINED THAT THIS IS OUR VIEW AS WELL. HE GAVE CREDIT TO SEVERAL THINGS FOR THE GOOD OUTCOME: FIRST, THE SCRUBBING OF THE GENERAL DEBATE AND THE REPLACEMENT BY OFF-THE-RECORD PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS AMONG THE MINISTERS; SECOND, AND NOT UNRELATED TO THE FOREGOING, THE REMARKABLY LOW INCIDENCE OF CONFRONTATION, WHICH OCCURRED IN OTHER MEETINGS; THIRD, YOUR STRONG PARTICIPATION AND ASSURANCES THAT THE U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 120877

THE GREEN AMENDMENT, AND, FINALLY, YOUR ASSURANCES THAT WE WERE GOING TO INTERPRET AND APPLY THE OTHER PROVISIONS OF

THE TRADE ACT IN THE SPIRIT OF LIBERALIZING THE WORLD
TRADE SYSTEM.

IN ADDITION, HE ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO THE JOINT RESOLU-
TION ON PANAMA AND TO OUR FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT WITH REGARD
TO HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS THE FIRST TIME THE
U.S. HAD SPOKEN IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THIS ISSUE.

IN FINISHING HIS OPENING REMARKS, BILL TOLD THE PRESS
THAT WE HAD WORKED OUT WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS A SENSIBLE
CALENDAR WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE OF THE OAS --
INCLUDIWG IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THE MEETING IN SAN JOSE
ON REFORM OF THE RIO TREATY. HE CONCLUDED THAT BASICALLY
THESE WERE THE MAJOR ELEMENTS BEHIND OUR SHARING WITH
LIEVANO THE VIEW THAT THIS WAS A MOST SUCCESSFUL GENERAL
ASSEMBLY.

IN THE EXCHANGE THAT FOLLOWED, HARDLY ANYONE RAISED
QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN CUBA. MOST WERE ABOUT
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN SAN JOSE. BILL REITERATED OUR
SUPPORT FOR THE RIO TREATY VOTING CHANGE AND OUR EXPECTA-
TION THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED IN SAN JOSE ON
AMENDING THE TREATY. HE TOLD THEM OUR POSTURE ON CUBA
REMAINED THE SAME AS YOU HAD EXPRESSED AT HOUSTON. ON
BILATERAL RELATIONS, HE OBSERVED TO MARILYN BERGER THAT A
PRESS CONFERENCE WAS NOT THE PROPER FORUM FOR CONDUCTING
OUR POLICY ON ATTITUDES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH CUBA.
THEREFORE, HE PREFERRED NOT TO EXPAND ON THE PUBLIC
RECORD. FINALLY, HE ALSO TRIED TO CLEAR UP SOME EVIDENT
CONFUSION ABOUT THE MEXICAN RESOLUTION ON CUBA, POINTING
OUT THAT IT HAD NO LEGAL EFFECT AND THAT SOME FORMAL
ACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN AT SAN JOSE FOR THE
SANCTIONS TO BE LIFTED. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, AGREEMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE120877
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN:GMR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750182-0936
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750522/aaaaatqf.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS BRIEFING BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FOR SECRETARY FROM RYAN
TAGS: SOPN, US, PN, CU, OAS, (ROGERS, WILLIAM D)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006